



# Choose A School Carefully

## Going to school is a lifetime investment

Getting training after high school may help you get a better-paying job doing work you like. But going to school is a big investment. You're investing your time. Chances are you'll also have to invest your own money or take out a student loan to go to school. So you need to be sure that you're choosing the right school.

- 1. Talk to your counselor.** Your school counselor is the first stop for information about the options available to you. Counselors can help you focus on your needs and goals, and they have information about different types of schools. Your counselor also can help you collect or prepare application materials.
- 2. Shop around.** Contact more than one school. If you're looking for vocational training, check the Yellow Pages under "Schools" for phone numbers. If your area has a community college, call the admissions office and find out what kinds of training the college offers.
- 3. Visit the school.** Call the school and schedule a visit, preferably while classes are being taught. Get a feel for the school; make sure you're comfortable with the facilities, the equipment, the teachers, and the students.
- 4. Don't be afraid to ask!** A good school will be happy to answer your questions about its programs. Ask the school about its students: How many graduate? How many get jobs because of the training they received? What kind of job placement services does the school offer students and graduates?
- 5. Check the cost.** Make sure the school gives you a clear statement of its tuition and fees. Remember that any financial aid you get will be applied first to paying the school's tuition and fees. If there's any money left over, the school will give it to you to help you pay for things such as food and rent.
- 6. Call these numbers.** Call your local Better Business Bureau, state higher education agency, or consumer-protection division of your state attorney general's office to find out if there have been any complaints about the school. Call the U.S. Department of Education's Federal Student Aid Information Center's toll-free number (1-800-4-FED-AID) if you have any questions about your financial aid at the school. You can also access our web site shown below.



Visit our web site at  
[www.studentaid.ed.gov](http://www.studentaid.ed.gov)